

Comments in OPPOSITION to Broadband over Power Line (BPL).

Amateur Radio has on many occasions been  
"THE ONLY MEANS OF COMMUNICATIONS",  
during and after a natural disaster.

As the co-founder and Assistant Coordinator for the Amateur Radio  
Station WX4NHC (formerly W4EHW) at the National Hurricane Center  
in Miami Florida, I am very concerned over the potential interference  
BPL may have on HF communications, nationally and internationally..

For more than 23 years, our group of over 30 volunteer Ham Radio  
Operators have manned the permanent Amateur Radio Station at NHC  
to provide vital Hurricane Warnings, Advisories and collected Real Time  
Hurricane Surface Weather Data and Damage Data from Ham Radio  
Operators in the hurricane affected areas using HF frequencies.  
Many times, this is the only means of receiving those life saving  
hurricane advisories and passing them along to their local communities.  
We use both HF voice (single sideband) transmissions and digital  
APRS HF data transmissions.

Most of these stations operating during a hurricane are using  
emergency power or batteries, wire antennas and low power output.  
We at WX4NHC have to be able to receive these weak signals,  
which are at times are challenging under the best of natural conditions,  
without additional man-made interference.

According to the detailed technical report by the American Radio Relay  
League (ARRL), the proposed BPL would produce substantial amounts  
of HF interference. This interference has the potential to interfere with  
HF emergency communications and directly affect life safety for those  
in hurricane-affected areas trying seek Hurricane Advisories or trying to  
communicate their conditions or transmitting a distress call.

Amateur Radio is not just a hobby. It is a vital communications tool that  
has proven through history to save lives, promote international goodwill  
and increase our own national communications abilities.

When a disaster hits and normal utilities go dead,  
the Ham Radio Operators, using their low power radios, batteries  
and wire antennas, will still be able to communicate to the rest of the  
country and the world.  
It would be a real shame if their distress calls were not heard.

Please do NOT approve BPL.  
The potential interference may directly affect  
emergency communications.

Sincerely,  
Julio Ripoll, AIA, NCARB, Architect  
Amateur Radio WD4JR  
WX4NHC National Hurricane Center Asst. Amateur Radio Coordinator  
[www.wx4nhc.org](http://www.wx4nhc.org)